

Amendments to the Specification:

Page 1, please amend the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 as follows:

“In a case where data obtained from photographing by some photographing apparatus such as a sensor, a camera, etc. are displayed on a monitor screen, an X-ray diagnosis film, etc., it is general that the photographed data are subjected to some gradation transformation, wherein the acquired data are converted into easy-to-observe density values. For example, FIGS. 3A and 3B are views schematically showing a radiation image of the abdomen, wherein the numeral 301 represents a spinal region, the numeral 302 denotes a gas generated in the abdomen, and the numeral 303 indicates a region from which a characteristic value for the gradation transformation is extracted. The characteristic value has hitherto been calculated from pixel values in the region 403 304, and the gradation transformation has been conducted based on this characteristic value.”